envisaged by Government with details thereof; and

(d) if so, what are the reasons for not applying the prevalent labour laws to the units of Export Processing Zones?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR (SHRI P.A. SANGMA): (a) to (d) No separate labour policy for the Export Processing Zones is presently under consideration of the Minsitry of Labour. According to the information available with the Ministry of Labour, the Export Processing Zones have not been exempted from the operation of the relevant labour laws. Cases of violation of the statutory provisions whenever noticed, are dealt with an accordance with the provisions of the law.

Socio-Economic conditions of Child Labour

763. SHRI RAMENDRA KUMAR YADAV "RAVI": Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) whether any survey has been conducted by Government regarding socio-economic conditions of child labour;

(b) if so, what is the outcome thereof; and

(c) what steps are being taken by Government to improve their conditions?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR (SHRI P.A. SANGMA): (a) and (b) A diagnostic study was carried out during 1979 in select industries and report published in 1981 by the Labour Bureau. According to the conclusions of the study, extreme poverty lack of opportunity for gainful employment, intermittancy of income and low standards of living are the main reasons for wide prevalence of child labour.

(c) Legal protection against exploitation has been extended through enactment of Child Labour (Prohibition & Regulation) Act, 1986 which prohibits engagement of child labour in certain hazardous occupations and processes and provides for regulation of their working conditions in notified establishments. Violation of the provisions of the Act attracts stringent penalties. Prohibitory and regulatory provisions also exist in certain other laws. In addition to stricter enforcement of law, Government have adopted a National Child Labour Policy in 1987. This Policy envisages a legislative action plan; focussing of general development programmes for the benefit of child labour and a project based plan of action in areas of high concentration of child labour. Further, financial assistance is granted to voluntary organisation for taking up action-oriented projects for the welfare of working children.

कृषि और भवन-निर्माण कार्य में लगे मजदूरों के लिए समिति

764. **डा० बापू कालदाते:** क्या श्रम मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि:

(क) क्या यह सच है कि कृषि और भवन निर्माण के क्षेत्र में कार्यरत मजदूरों को आर्थिक संरक्षण प्रदान करने के लिए सरकार ने एक समिति गठित की है;

(ख) यदि हां, तो क्या उक्त समिति ने अपनी सिफारिशें सरकार को सौंप दी हैं;

(ग) यदि हां, तो इसका ब्यौरा क्या है; और

(घ) सरकार ने इस सिफारिशों पर क्या निर्णय लिया है?

श्रम मंत्रालय के राज्य मंत्री (श्री पी० ए० संगमा): (क) जी, नहीं।

(ख) से (घ) प्रश्न नहीं उठते।

Child Labour in Carpet Industry

765. SHRI P. UPENDRA:
SHRI SUNIL BASU RAY:

Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) whether carpet exports from India are in jeopardy due to the insistence of Germany, USA and other countries that they will not encourage carpets made by the children; and

(b) if so, what steps Government are taking to stop child labour in the carpet industry and safeguard Indian exports?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR (SHRI P. A. SANGMA): (a) While there has been no

decline so far as carpet exports from India to Germany & USA are concerned, certain non-official agencies and media in those countries have highlighted the alleged employment of child labour in the Indian Carpet Industry.

(b) Various steps are being taken to tackle the problem within the country and to project the reality of the situation abroad. The steps taken are:

(i) Registration of looms in the States of Bihar and U.P.

(ii) Special cells created to ensure implementation of existing laws prohibiting employment of children.

(iii) The carpet Export Promotion Council (CEPC) and the All India Carpet Manufacturers Association (AICMA) adopted a code of conduct whereby members will ensure that loom-owners do not employ children.

(iv) Govt. of Uttar Pradesh has formed a State Level Committee for the eradication of child labour.

(v) 20 special schools have been set up in U.P. A total of 1,000 child labour withdrawn from Carpet Industry are being provided with non-formal education, nutrition, health care, stipend, vocational training, recreation etc. in these special schools.

(vi) 8 programmes have been taken up through Non-Governmental voluntary organisations working in East U.P. in collaboration with the ILO for rehabilitation of working children withdrawn from carpet industry.

(vii) In order to discourage child labour, U.P. Government has issued a notification stipulating that the minimum wages fixed for adolescents and children would be 99% and 95% respectively of the wages fixed for adults.

Equal wage for equal work for women

766. SHRI KRISHAN LAL SHARMA: Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that there is a widespread discrimination against women in regard to employment and payment of wage; and

(b) if so, what steps are being taken by Government to ensure that the principle of equal work and equal wages is strictly enforced in this matter?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR (SHRI P. A. SANGMA): (a) and (b) It is in the notice of Government that there are instances of discrimination against women in regard to employment and payment of wage etc. In order to prevent discrimination on grounds of sex in recruitment and in conditions of service subsequent to recruitment in payment of remuneration, promotion, training, transfer etc., the Equal Remuneration Act, 1976 has been enacted. The Act covers all categories of employment and prescribes stringent penalties for violation of its provisions. Cognizance of an offence under the Act can be taken by the competent Courts *suo moto* or on a complaint being made by an aggrieved person.

In addition, voluntary organisations have been recognised, by Central and State Governments for the purpose of lodging complaints against employers for violation of the provisions of the Act.

Appropriate governments have notified the enforcement agencies who are required to make regular inspection and prosecute the offenders in case provisions of the Act are found to have been violated.